HIGHWAY ADVERTISING CONTROL

Scenic Vistas Act of 1971

Legislative Statutes

Highway Advertising Control Act - - Scenic Vistas Act (RCW 47.42)

Rules and Regulations
Highway Advertising Control Act
(WAC 468-66)

June 2000



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CHAPTER 47.42 RCW HIGHWAY ADVERTISING CONTROL ACT— SCENIC VISTAS ACT

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RCW 47.42.010 Declaration of purpose. The control of signs in areas adjacent to state highways of this state is hereby declared to be necessary to promote the public

health, safety, welfare, convenience and enjoyment of public travel, to protect the public investment in the interstate system and other state highways, and to attract visitors to this state by conserving the natural beauty of areas adjacent to the interstate system, and of scenic areas adjacent to state highways upon which they travel in great numbers, and to insure that information in the specific interest of the traveling public is presented safely and effectively. [1961 c 96 § 1.]

RCW 47.42.020 Definitions. The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter.

- (1) "Department" means the Washington state department of transportation.
- (2) "Erect" means to construct, build, raise, assemble, place, affix, attach, create, paint, draw, or in any other way bring into being or establish.
- (3) "Interstate system" means any state highway which is or does become part of the national system of interstate and defense highways as described in section 103(d) of title 23, United States Code.
 - (4) "Maintain" means to allow to exist.
- (5) "Person" means this state or any public or private corporation, firm, partnership, association, as well as any individual or individuals.
- (6) "Primary system" means any state highway which is or does become part of the federal-aid primary system as described in section 103(b) of title 23, United States Code.
 - (7) "Scenic system" means
- (a) any state highway within any public park, federal forest area, public beach, public recreation area, or national monument,
- (b) any state highway or portion thereof outside the boundaries of any incorporated city or town designated by the legislature as a part of the scenic system, or
- (c) any state highway or portion thereof outside the boundaries of any incorporated city or town designated by the legislature as a part of the scenic and recreational highway system except for the sections of highways specifically excluded in RCW 47.42.025 or located within areas zoned by the governing county for predominantly commercial and industrial uses, and having development visible to the highway, as determined by the department.
- (8) "Sign" means any outdoor sign, display, device, figure, painting, drawing, message, placard, poster, billboard, or other thing that is designed, intended, or used to advertise or inform, any part of the advertising or informative contents of which is visible from any place on the main-traveled way of the interstate system or other state highway.

- (9) "Commercial and industrial areas" means any area zoned commercial or industrial by a county or municipal code, or if unzoned or zoned for general uses by a county or municipal code, that area occupied by three or more separate and distinct commercial or industrial activities, or any combination thereof, within a space of five hundred feet and the area within five hundred feet of such activities on both sides of the highway. The area shall be measured from the outer edges of the regularly used buildings, parking lots, or storage or processing areas of the commercial or industrial activity and not from the property lines of the parcels upon which the activities are located. Measurements shall be along or parallel to the edge of the main traveled way of the highway. The following shall not be considered commercial or industrial activities:
- (a) Agricultural, forestry, grazing, farming, and related activities, including, but not limited to, wayside fresh produce stands;
 - (b) Transient or temporary activities;
 - (c) Railroad tracks and minor sidings;
 - (d) Signs;
- (e) Activities more than six hundred and sixty feet from the nearest edge of the right of way;
- (f) Activities conducted in a building principally used as a residence. If any commercial or industrial activity that has been used in defining or delineating an unzoned area ceases to operate for a period of six continuous months, any signs located within the former unzoned area become nonconforming and shall not be maintained by any person.
- (10) "Roadside area information panel or display" means a panel or display located so as not to be readable from the main traveled way, erected in a safety rest area, scenic overlook, or similar roadside area, for providing motorists with information in the specific interest of the traveling public.
- (11) "Temporary agricultural directional sign" means a sign on private property adjacent to state highway right of way to provide directional information to places of business offering for sale seasonal agricultural products on the property where the sale is taking place. [1993 c 430 \$ 10; 1991 c 94 \$ 1; 1990 c 258 \$ 1; 1987 c 469 \$ 2; 1985 c 376 \$ 2; 1984 c 7 \$ 222; 1977 ex.s. c 258 \$ 1; 1974 ex.s. c 80 \$ 1; 1971 ex.s. c 62 \$ 1; 1961 c 96 \$ 2.]

NOTES:

Legislative findings and intent--1990 c 258: See note following RCW 47.40.100.

Legislative intent--1985 c 376: "It is the intent of the legislature that state highway information and directional signs provide appropriate guidance to all motorists traveling throughout the state. Such guidance should include the identity, location, and types of recreational, cultural, educational, entertainment, or unique or unusual commercial activities whose principle source of visitation is derived from motorists not residing in the immediate locale of the activity. Such informational and directional signs shall comply with Title 23, United States Code and

the rules adopted by the department under RCW 47.42.060." [1985 c 376 § 1.]

Severability--1984 c 7: See note following RCW 47.01.141.

- **RCW 47.42.025 Exclusions from scenic system.** The following sections of the scenic and recreational highway system are excluded from the scenic system as defined in subsection (7) of RCW 47.42.020:
- (1) Beginning on state route number 101 at the junction with Airport Road north of Shelton, thence north to a point two thousand feet north of Airport Road.
- (2) Beginning on state route number 101 at the junction with Mill Creek Road south of Forks, thence north two and four-tenths miles to the Calawah River bridge.
- (3) Beginning on state route number 105 at a point onehalf mile southwest of the boundary of Aberdeen, thence northeast to the boundary of Aberdeen.
- (4) Beginning on state route number 17 at a point ninetenths of a mile west of Grape Drive in the vicinity of Moses Lake, thence easterly to a junction of Grape Drive.
- (5) Beginning on state route number 12 at a point one-half mile south of the south boundary of Dayton, thence northerly to the south boundary of Dayton.
- (6) Beginning on state route number 14 one-half mile west of the west boundary of Bingen, thence east to a point one-half mile east of the east boundary of Bingen. [1971 ex.s. c 62 § 2.]

RCW 47.42.030 Signs visible from interstate, primary, or scenic systems restricted. Except as permitted under this chapter, no person shall erect or maintain a sign which is visible from the main traveled way of the interstate system, the primary system, or the scenic system. In case a highway or a section of highway is both a part of the primary system and the scenic system, only those signs permitted along the scenic system shall be erected or maintained. [1971 ex.s. c 62 § 3; 1961 c 96 § 3.]

RCW 47.42.040 Permissible signs classified. It is declared to be the policy of the state that no signs which are visible from the main traveled way of the interstate system, primary system, or scenic system shall be erected or maintained except the following types:

- (1) Directional or other official signs or notices that are required or authorized by law;
- (2) Signs advertising the sale or lease of the property upon which they are located;
- (3) Signs advertising activities conducted on the property on which they are located;
- (4) Signs, not inconsistent with the policy of this chapter and the national policy set forth in section 131 of title 23, United States Code as codified and enacted by Public Law 85-767 and amended only by section 106, Public Law 86-342, and the national standards

promulgated thereunder by the secretary of commerce or the secretary of transportation, advertising activities being conducted at a location within twelve miles of the point at which such signs are located: PROVIDED, That no sign lawfully erected pursuant to this subsection adjacent to the interstate system and outside commercial and industrial areas shall be maintained by any person after three years from May 10, 1971;

- (5) Signs, not inconsistent with the policy of this chapter and the national policy set forth in section 131 of title 23, United States Code as codified and enacted by Public Law 85-767 and amended only by section 106, Public Law 86-342, and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the secretary of commerce or the secretary of transportation, designed to give information in the specific interest of the traveling public: PROVIDED, That no sign lawfully erected pursuant to this subsection adjacent to the interstate system and outside commercial and industrial areas shall be maintained by any person after three years from May 10, 1971;
- (6) Signs lawfully in existence on October 22, 1965, determined by the commission, subject to the approval of the United States secretary of transportation, to be landmark signs, including signs on farm structures or natural surfaces, of historic or artistic significance the preservation of which would be consistent with the purposes of chapter 47.42 RCW;
- (7) Public service signs, located on school bus stop shelters, which:
- (a) Identify the donor, sponsor, or contributor of said shelters;
- (b) Contain safety slogans or messages which occupy not less than sixty percent of the area of the sign;
 - (c) Contain no other message;
- (d) Are located on school bus shelters which are authorized or approved by city, county, or state law, regulation, or ordinance, and at places approved by the city, county, or state agency controlling the highway involved; and
- (e) Do not exceed thirty-two square feet in area. Not more than one sign on each shelter may face in any one direction. Subsection (7) of this section notwithstanding, the department of transportation shall adopt regulations relating to the appearance of school bus shelters, the placement, size, and public service content of public service signs located thereon, and the prominence of the identification of the donors, sponsors, or contributors of the shelters.
- (8) Temporary agricultural directional signs, with the following restrictions:
- (a) Signs shall be posted only during the period of time the seasonal agricultural product is being sold;
- (b) Signs shall not be placed adjacent to the interstate highway system unless the sign qualifies as an on-premise sign:
 - (c) Signs shall not be placed within an incorporated

city or town;

- (d) Premises on which the seasonal agricultural products are sold must be within fifteen miles of the state highway, and necessary supplemental signing on local roads must be provided before the installation of the signs on the state highway;
- (e) Signs must be located so as not to restrict sight distances on approaches to intersections;
- (f) The department shall establish a permit system and fee schedule and rules for the manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of these signs in accordance with the policy of this chapter;
- (g) Signs in violation of these provisions shall be removed in accordance with the procedures in RCW 47.42.080; Only signs of types 1, 2, 3, 7, and 8 may be erected or maintained within view of the scenic system. Signs of types 7 and 8 may also be erected or maintained within view of the federal aid primary system. [1991 c 94 § 2; 1990 c 258 § 2; 1985 c 376 § 3; 1979 c 69 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 271 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 4; 1961 c 96 § 4.]

NOTES:

Legislative findings and intent--1990 c 258: See note following RCW 47.40.100.

Legislative intent--1985 c 376: See note following RCW 47.42.020.

RCW 47.42.045 Number of signs--Spacing--Tourist facility, business or agricultural signs.

- (1) Not more than one type 3 sign visible to traffic proceeding in any one direction on an interstate system, primary system outside an incorporated city or town or commercial or industrial area, or scenic system highway may be permitted more than fifty feet from the advertised activity;
- (2) A type 3 sign, other than one along any portion of the primary system within an incorporated city or town or within any commercial or industrial area, permitted more than fifty feet from the advertised activity pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall not be erected or maintained a greater distance from the advertised activity than one of the following options selected by the owner of the business being advertised:
- (a) One hundred fifty feet measured along the edge of the protected highway from the main entrance to the activity advertised (when applicable);
- (b) One hundred fifty feet from the main building of the advertised activity; or
- (c) Fifty feet from a regularly used parking lot maintained by and contiguous to the advertised activity.
- (3) In addition to signs permitted by subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the commission may adopt regulations permitting one type 3 sign visible to traffic proceeding in any one direction on an interstate, primary or scenic system highway on premises which, on June 25, 1976, are used wholly or in part as an operating business, farm, ranch or orchard which sign bears only the name of the business,

farm, ranch or orchard and a directional arrow or short directional message. Regulations adopted under this subsection shall prohibit the erection or maintenance of such type 3 signs on narrow strips of land a substantial distance from but connected with a business, farm, ranch or orchard. Signs permitted under this subsection shall not exceed fifty square feet in area.

(4) The commission with advice from the parks and recreation commission shall adopt specifications for a uniform system of official tourist facility directional signs to be used on the scenic system highways. Official directional signs shall be posted by the commission to inform motorists of types of tourist and recreational facilities available off the scenic system which are accessible by way of public or private roads intersecting scenic system highways. [1975-76 2nd ex.s. c 55 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 154 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 138 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 5.]

RCW 47.42.048 State and local prohibitions.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to permit a person to erect or maintain a sign that is otherwise prohibited by statute or by the resolution or ordinance of any county, city or town of the state of Washington. [1974 ex.s. c 80 § 3.]

RCW 47.42.050 Information signs by governmental units. Information signs may be erected and maintained by the state, any county, city, or town. [1961 c 96 § 5.]

RCW 47.42.055 Roadside area information panels or displays. The department is authorized to erect roadside area information panels or displays adjacent to the state highway system within this state. The department may contract with private persons for the erection and operation of the information panels or displays. Compensation to the contractors shall be derived solely from the reasonable fees that the contractors will be permitted to charge participating businesses for making and exhibiting business signs and displays and for rendering services to tourists. [1985 c 376 § 5; 1984 c 7 § 225; 1977 ex.s. c 258 § 2.] **NOTES:**

Legislative intent--1985 c 376: See note following RCW 47.42.020.

Severability--1984 c 7: See note following RCW 47.01.141.

RCW 47.42.060 Rules for signs visible from interstate and scenic systems--Judicial review. The department shall adopt rules for the erection and maintenance of signs that are visible from the main traveled way of the interstate system and the scenic system and that are permitted by this chapter and other rules for the administration of this chapter consistent with the policy of this chapter and the national policy set forth in section 131, title 23, United States Code as codified and enacted by Public Law 85-767 and amended only by section 106,

Public Law 86-342 and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the secretary of commerce or the secretary of transportation. Proceedings for review of any action taken by the department pursuant to this chapter shall be instituted by filing a petition only in the superior court of Thurston county. [1984 c 7 § 226; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 6; 1961 c 96 § 6.]

NOTES:

Severability--1984 c 7: See note following RCW 47.01.141.

RCW 47.42.062 Signs visible from primary system in commercial and industrial areas--Requirements, restrictions, and prohibitions. Signs within six hundred and sixty feet of the nearest edge of the right of way which are visible from the main traveled way of the primary system within commercial and industrial areas and whose size, lighting, and spacing are consistent with the customary use of property for the effective display of outdoor advertising as set forth in this section may be erected and maintained: PROVIDED, That this section shall not serve to restrict type 3 signs located along any portion of the primary system within an incorporated city or town or within any commercial or industrial area.

- (1) General: Signs shall not be erected or maintained which
- (a) imitate or resemble any official traffic sign, signal, or device;
- (b) are erected or maintained upon trees or painted or drawn upon rocks or other natural features and which are structurally unsafe or in disrepair; or
 - (c) have any visible moving parts.
 - (2) Size of signs:
- (a) The maximum area for any one sign shall be six hundred seventy-two square feet with a maximum height of twenty-five feet and maximum length of fifty feet inclusive of any border and trim but excluding the base or apron, supports and other structural members: PROVIDED, That cut-outs and extensions may add up to twenty percent of additional sign area.
- (b) For the purposes of this subsection, double-faced, back-to-back, or V-type signs shall be considered as two signs.
- (c) Signs which exceed three hundred twenty-five square feet in area may not be double-faced (abutting and facing the same direction).
 - (3) Spacing of signs:
- (a) Signs may not be located in such a manner as to obscure, or otherwise physically interfere with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal, or device, obstruct or physically interfere with the driver's view of approaching, merging, or intersecting traffic.
- (b) On limited access highways established pursuant to chapter 47.52 RCW no two signs shall be spaced less than one thousand feet apart, and no sign may be located within three thousand feet of the center of an interchange, a safety

rest area, or information center, or within one thousand feet of an intersection at grade. Double-faced signs shall be prohibited. Not more than a total of five sign structures shall be permitted on both sides of the highway per mile.

- (c) On noncontrolled access highways inside the boundaries of incorporated cities and towns not more than a total of four sign structures on both sides of the highway within a space of six hundred sixty feet shall be permitted with a minimum of one hundred feet between sign structures. In no event, however, shall more than four sign structures be permitted between platted intersecting streets or highways. On noncontrolled access highways outside the boundaries of incorporated cities and towns minimum spacing between sign structures on each side of the highway shall be five hundred feet.
- (d) For the purposes of this subsection, a back-to-back sign and a V-type sign shall be considered one sign structure.
- (e) Official signs, and signs advertising activities conducted on the property on which they are located shall not be considered in determining compliance with the above spacing requirements. The minimum space between structures shall be measured along the nearest edge of the pavement between points directly opposite the signs along each side of the highway and shall apply to signs located on the same side of the highway.
- (4) Lighting: Signs may be illuminated, subject to the following restrictions:
- (a) Signs which contain, include, or are illuminated by any flashing, intermittent, or moving light or lights are prohibited, except those giving public service information such as time, date, temperature, weather, or similar information.
- (b) Signs which are not effectively shielded as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at any portion of the traveled ways of the highway and which are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle, or which otherwise interfere with any driver's operation of a motor vehicle are prohibited.
- (c) No sign shall be so illuminated that it interferes with the effectiveness of, or obscures an official traffic sign, device, or signal.
- (d) All such lighting shall be subject to any other provisions relating to lighting of signs presently applicable to all highways under the jurisdiction of the state. [1975 1st ex.s. c 271 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 154 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 138 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 7.]

RCW 47.42.063 Signs visible from primary system in commercial and industrial areas--Preexisting signs--Permissible signs--Spacing.

(1) Signs within six hundred and sixty feet of the nearest edge of the right of way lawfully erected and maintained which are visible from the main traveled way of the primary system within commercial and industrial areas

- on June 1, 1971 shall be permitted to remain and be maintained.
- (2) Signs within six hundred and sixty feet of the nearest edge of the right of way which are visible from the main traveled way of the primary system within commercial and industrial areas whose size, lighting, and spacing are consistent with customary use as set forth in RCW 47.42.062 may be erected and maintained. Signs lawfully erected and maintained on June 1, 1971 shall be included in the determination of spacing requirements for additional signs. [1975 1st ex.s. c 271 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 8.]

RCW 47.42.065 Signs viewable from other highways or streets--Requirements. Notwithstanding any other provision of chapter 47.42 RCW, signs may be erected and maintained more than six hundred and sixty feet from the nearest edge of the right of way which are visible from the main traveled way of the interstate system, primary system, or scenic system when designed and oriented to be viewed from highways or streets other than the interstate system, primary system, or the scenic system and the advertising or informative contents of which may not be clearly comprehended by motorists using the main traveled way of the interstate system, primary system or scenic system. [1975 1st ex.s. c 271 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 9.1

RCW 47.42.070 State and local prohibitions.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to permit a person to erect or maintain any sign that is otherwise prohibited by statute or by the resolution or ordinance of any county, city, or town of the state of Washington. [1961 c 96 § 7.]

RCW 47.42.080 Public Nuisance-Abatement-Penalty.

- (1) Any sign erected or maintained contrary to the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted hereunder that is designed to be viewed from the interstate system, the primary system, or the scenic system is a public nuisance, and the department, the chief of the Washington state patrol, the county sheriff, or the chief of police of any city or town shall notify the permittee or, if there is no permittee, the owner of the property on which the sign is located, by certified mail at his last known address, that it constitutes a public nuisance and must comply with the chapter or be removed.
- (2) If the permittee or owner, as the case may be, fails to comply with the chapter or remove any such sign within fifteen days after being notified to remove the sign he is guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition to the penalties imposed by law upon conviction, an order may be entered compelling removal of the sign. Each day the sign is maintained constitutes a separate offense.
- (3) If the permittee or the owner of the property upon which it is located, as the case may be, is not found or

refuses receipt of the notice, the department, the chief of the Washington state patrol, the county sheriff, or the chief of police of any city or town shall post the sign and property upon which it is located with a notice that the sign constitutes a public nuisance and must be removed. If the sign is not removed within fifteen days after such posting, the department, the chief of the Washington state patrol, the county sheriff, or the chief of police of any city or town shall abate the nuisance and destroy the sign, and for that purpose may enter upon private property without incurring liability for doing so.

- (4) Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the provisions contained in RCW 47.42.102 requiring the payment of compensation upon the removal of any signs compensable under state law.
- (5) Any sign erected or maintained on state highway right of way contrary to this chapter or rules adopted under it is a public nuisance, and the department is authorized to remove any such sign without notice. [1985 c 376 § 6; 1984 c 7 § 227; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 55 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 10; 1961 c 96 § 8.]

NOTES:

Legislative intent--1985 c 376: See note following RCW 47.42.020.

Severability--1984 c 7: See note following RCW 47.01.141.

RCW 47.42.090 Revocation of permit. If any person is convicted of a violation of this chapter, or any rule adopted hereunder, the department may revoke any permit issued to that person under this chapter. [1984 c 7 § 228; 1961 c 96 § 9.]

NOTES:

Severability--1984 c 7: See note following RCW 47.01.141.

RCW 47.42.100 Preexisting signs Moratorium.

- (1) No sign lawfully erected in a protected area as defined by section 2, chapter 96, Laws of 1961 (before the amendment thereof), prior to March 11, 1961, within a commercial or industrial zone within the boundaries of any city or town, as such boundaries existed on September 21, 1959, wherein the use of real property adjacent to the interstate system is subject to municipal regulation or control but which does not comply with the provisions of this chapter or any regulations promulgated hereunder, shall be maintained by any person after March 11, 1965.
- (2) No sign lawfully erected in a protected area as defined by section 2, chapter 96, Laws of 1961 (before the amendment thereof), prior to March 11, 1961, other than within a commercial or industrial zone within the boundaries of a city or town as such boundaries existed on September 21, 1959, wherein the use of real property adjacent to the interstate system is subject to municipal regulation or control but which does not comply with the provisions of this chapter or any regulations promulgated

hereunder, shall be maintained by any person after three years from March 11, 1961.

- (3) No sign lawfully erected in a scenic area as defined by section 2, chapter 96, Laws of 1961 (before the amendment thereof), prior to the effective date of the designation of such area as a scenic area shall be maintained by any person after three years from the effective date of the designation of any such area as a scenic area.
- (4) No sign visible from the main traveled way of the interstate system, the primary system (other than type 3 signs along any portion of the primary system within an incorporated city or town or within a commercial or industrial area), or the scenic system which was there lawfully maintained immediately prior to May 10, 1971, but which does not comply with the provisions of chapter 47.42 RCW as now or hereafter amended, shall be maintained by any person
 - (a) after three years from May 10, 1971, or
- (b) with respect to any highway hereafter designated by the legislature as a part of the scenic system, after three years from the effective date of the designation. Signs located in areas zoned by the governing county for predominantly commercial or industrial uses, that do not have development visible to the highway, as determined by the department, and that were lawfully installed after May 10, 1971, visible to any highway now or hereafter designated by the legislature as part of the scenic system, shall be allowed to be maintained. [1993 c 430 § 11; 1974 ex.s. c 154 § 3; 1974 ex.s. c 138 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 11; 1963 ex.s. c 3 § 55; 1961 c 96 § 10.]

RCW 47.42.102 Compensation for removal of signs--Authorized--Applicability.

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, just compensation shall be paid upon the removal of any sign (pursuant to the provisions of chapter 47.42 RCW), lawfully erected under state law, which is visible from the main traveled way of the interstate system or the primary system.
 - (2) Such compensation shall be paid for the following:
- (a) The taking from the owner of such sign, display, or device of all right, title, leasehold, and interest in such sign, display, or device; and
- (b) The taking from the owner of the real property on which the sign, display, or device is located, of the right to erect and maintain such signs, displays, and devices thereon.
- (3) In no event, however, shall compensation be paid for the taking or removal of signs adjacent to the interstate system and the scenic system which became subject to removal pursuant to chapter 96, Laws of 1961 as amended by section 55, chapter 3, Laws of 1963 ex. sess. prior to May 10, 1971. [1975 1st ex.s. c 271 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 12.1

RCW 47.42.103 Compensation for removal--Action determining amount--Payment--State's share.

- (1) Compensation as required by RCW 47.42.102 shall be paid to the person or persons entitled thereto for the removal of such signs. If no agreement is reached on the amount of compensation to be paid, the department may institute an action by summons and complaint in the superior court for the county in which the sign is located to obtain a determination of the compensation to be paid. If the owner of the sign is unknown and cannot be ascertained after diligent efforts to do so, the department may remove the sign upon the payment of compensation only to the owner of the real property on which the sign is located. Thereafter the owner of the sign may file an action at any time within one year after the removal of the sign to obtain a determination of the amount of compensation he should receive for the loss of the sign. If either the owner of the sign or the owner of the real property on which the sign is located cannot be found within the state, service of the summons and complaint on such person for the purpose of obtaining a determination of the amount of compensation to be paid may be by publication in the manner provided by RCW 4.28.100.
- (2) If compensation is determined by judicial proceedings, the sum so determined shall be paid into the registry of the court to be disbursed upon removal of the sign by its owner or by the owner of the real property on which the sign is located. If the amount of compensation is agreed upon, the department may pay the agreed sum into escrow to be released upon the removal of the sign by its owner or the owner of the real property on which the sign is located.
- (3) The state's share of compensation shall be paid from the motor vehicle fund, or if a court having jurisdiction enters a final judgment declaring that motor vehicle funds may not be used, then from the general fund. [1984 c 7 § 229; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 13.]

NOTES:

Severability--1984 c 7: See note following RCW 47.01.141.

RCW 47.42.104 Compensation for removal--Federal share--Acceptance. The department may accept any allotment of funds by the United States, or any agency thereof, appropriated to carry out the purposes of section 131 of title 23, United States Code, as now or hereafter amended. The department shall take such steps as may be necessary from time to time to obtain from the United States, or the appropriate agency thereof, funds allotted and appropriated, pursuant to section 131, for the purpose of paying the federal share of the just compensation to be paid to sign owners and owners of real property under the terms of subsection (g) of section 131 and RCW 47.42.102, 47.42.103, and 47.42.104. [1984 c 7 § 230; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 14.]

NOTES:

Severability--1984 c 7: See note following RCW 47.01.141.

RCW 47.42.105 Unavailability of federal share. No sign, display, or device shall be required to be removed if the federal share of the just compensation to be paid upon the removal of such sign, display, or device is not available to make such payment. [1971 ex.s. c 62 § 15.]

RCW 47.42.107 Compensation for removal under local authority.

- (1) Just compensation shall be paid upon the removal of any existing sign pursuant to the provisions of any resolution or ordinance of any county, city, or town of the state of Washington by such county, city, or town if:
- (a) Such sign was lawfully in existence on May 10, 1971 (the effective date of the Scenic Vistas Act of 1971); or
- (b) Such sign was erected subsequent to May 10, 1971 (the effective date of the Scenic Vistas Act of 1971), in compliance with existing state and local law.
- (2) Such compensation shall be paid in the same manner as specified in RCW 47.42.102(2) for the following:
- (a) The taking from the owner of such sign, display, or device of all right, title, leasehold, and interest in such sign, display, or device; and
- (b) The taking from the owner of the real property on which the sign, display, or device is located, of the right to erect and maintain such signs, displays, and devices thereon. [1977 ex.s. c 141 § 1.]

NOTES:

Severability--1977 ex.s. c 141: "If any provision of this 1977 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1977 ex.s. c 141 § 2.]

RCW 47.42.110 Agreements for federal aid. The department is authorized to enter into agreements (and such supplementary agreements as may be necessary) consistent with this chapter, with the secretary of commerce or the secretary of transportation authorized under section 131(b) of title 23, United States Code, as codified and enacted by Public Law 85-767 and amended only by section 106, Public Law 86-342, in order that the state may become eligible for increased federal aid as provided for in section 131 of title 23, United States Code, as codified and enacted by Public Law 85-767 and amended only by section 106, Public Law 86-342. [1984 c 7 § 231; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 16; 1961 c 96 § 11.]

NOTES:

Severability--1984 c 7: See note following RCW 47.01.141.

RCW 47.42.120 Permits--Fees--Renewal--

Permissible acts--Revocation. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, no sign except a sign of type 1 or 2 or those type 3 signs that advertise activities conducted upon the properties where the signs are located, may be erected or maintained without a permit issued by the department. Application for a permit shall be made to the department on forms furnished by it. The forms shall contain a statement that the owner or lessee of the land in question has consented thereto. The application shall be accompanied by a fee established by department rule to be deposited with the state treasurer to the credit of the motor vehicle fund. Permits shall be for the remainder of the calendar year in which they are issued, and accompanying fees shall not be prorated for fractions of the year. Permits must be renewed annually through a certification process established by department rule. Advertising copy may be changed at any time without the payment of an additional fee. Assignment of permits in good standing is effective only upon receipt of written notice of assignment by the department. A permit may be revoked after hearing if the department finds that any statement made in the application or annual certification process was false or misleading, or that the sign covered is not in good general condition and in a reasonable state of repair, or is otherwise in violation of this chapter, if the false or misleading information has not been corrected and the sign has not been brought into compliance with this chapter or rules adopted under it within thirty days after written notification. [1999 c 276 § 1; 1984 c 7 § 232; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 17; 1961 c 96 § 12.] **NOTES:**

Severability--1984 c 7: See note following RCW 47.01.141.

RCW 47.42.130 Permit identification number.

Every permit issued by the department shall be assigned a separate identification number, and each permittee shall fasten to each sign a weatherproof label, not larger than sixteen square inches, that shall be furnished by the department and on which shall be plainly visible the permit number. The permittee shall also place his or her name in a conspicuous position on the front or back of each sign. The failure of a sign to have such a label affixed to it is prima facie evidence that it is not in compliance with the provisions of this chapter. [1999 c 276 § 2; 1984 c 7 § 233; 1961 c 96 § 13.]

NOTES:

Severability--1984 c 7: See note following RCW 47.01.141.

RCW 47.42.140 Scenic areas designated. The following portions of state highways are designated as a part of the scenic system:

(1) State route number 2 beginning at the crossing of Woods creek at the east city limits of Monroe, thence in an easterly direction by way of Stevens pass to a junction with state route number 97 in the vicinity of Peshastin.

- (2) State route number 7 beginning at a junction with state route number 706 at Elbe, thence in a northerly direction to a junction with state route number 507 south of Spanaway.
- (3) State route number 11 beginning at the Blanchard overcrossing, thence in a northerly direction to the limits of Larabee state park (north line of section 36, township 37 north, range 2 east).
- (4) State route number 12 beginning at Kosmos southeast of Morton, thence in an easterly direction across White pass to the Oak Flat junction with state route number 410 northwest of Yakima.
- (5) State route number 90 beginning at the westerly junction with West Lake Sammamish parkway in the vicinity of Issaquah, thence in an easterly direction by way of North Bend and Snoqualmie pass to a junction with state route number 970 at Cle Elum.
- (6) State route number 97 beginning at a junction with state route number 970 at Virden, thence via Blewett pass to a junction with state route number 2 in the vicinity of Peshastin.
- (7) State route number 106 beginning at the junction with state route number 101 in the vicinity of Union, thence northeasterly to the junction with state route number 3 in the vicinity of Belfair.
- (8) State route number 123 beginning at a junction with state route number 12 at Ohanapecosh junction in the vicinity west of White pass, thence in a northerly direction to a junction with state route number 410 at Cayuse junction in the vicinity west of Chinook pass.
- (9) State route number 165 beginning at the northwest entrance to Mount Rainier national park, thence in a northerly direction to a junction with state route number 162 east of the town of South Prairie.
- (10) State route number 206, Mt. Spokane Park Drive, beginning at the junction with state route number 2 near the north line of section 3, township 26 N, range 43 E, thence northeasterly to a point in section 28, township 28 N, range 45 E at the entrance to Mt. Spokane state park.
- (11) State route number 305, beginning at the ferry slip at Winslow on Bainbridge Island, thence northwesterly by way of Agate Pass bridge to a junction with state route number 3 approximately four miles northwest of Poulsbo.
- (12) State route number 410 beginning at the crossing of Scatter creek approximately six miles east of Enumclaw, thence in an easterly direction by way of Chinook pass to a junction of state route number 12 and state route number 410.
- (13) State route number 706 beginning at a junction with state route number 7 at Elbe thence in an easterly direction to the southwest entrance to Mount Rainier national park.
- (14) State route number 970 beginning at a junction with state route number 90 in the vicinity of Cle Elum thence via Teanaway to a junction with state route number 97 in the vicinity of Virden. [1993 c 430 § 12; 1992 c 26 § 3; 1975 c 63 § 9; 1974 ex.s. c 138 § 4. Prior: 1971 ex.s. c 73

§ 28; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 18; 1961 c 96 § 14. Cf. 1974 ex.s. c 154 § 4.]

RCW 47.42.900 Severability--1961 c 96. If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1961 c 96 § 16.]

RCW 47.42.901 Severability--1963 ex.s. c 3. If any provision of *section 55 of this amendatory act shall be held to be invalid or shall be held to invalidate any provision of chapter 96, Laws of 1961 (chapter 47.42 RCW), then that provision of this amendatory act shall be of no force and effect and the provisions of chapter 96, Laws of 1961 (chapter 47.42 RCW) shall continue in effect. [1963 ex.s. c 3 § 56.]

NOTES:

*Reviser's note: The reference to "section 55 of this amendatory act" is to the 1963 amendment of RCW 47.42.100.

RCW 47.42.902 Severability--1971 ex.s. c 62. If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1971 ex.s. c 62 § 20.]

RCW 47.42.910 Short title--1961 c 96. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the highway advertising control act of 1961. [1961 c 96 § 17.]

RCW 47.42.911 Short title--1971 ex.s. c 62. This chapter may be cited as the "Scenic Vistas Act." [1999 c 276 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 62 § 19.]

RCW 47.42.920 Federal requirements--Conflict and accord. If the secretary of the United States department of transportation finds any part of this chapter to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this chapter is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter in its application to the agencies concerned. The rules under this chapter shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [1985 c 142 § 4.]

Chapter 468-66 WAC HIGHWAY ADVERTISING CONTROL ACT

468-66-010	Definitions.
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468-66-120	Signs erected prior to June 1, 1971 in
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DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER

Measurements of distance. [Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-040, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-030.] Repealed by 80-04-095 (Order 52), filed 4/1/80. Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060.
Highway fatality markers. [Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060. 88-22-002 (Order 116), § 468-66-175, filed 10/20/88.] Repealed by 94-12-049 (Order 144), filed 5/27/94, effective 6/27/94. Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW and RCW 47.01.101(5).

WAC 468-66-010 Definitions. The following terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings:

- (1) "Abandoned." A sign for which neither sign owner nor land owner claim any responsibility.
- (2) "Act" shall mean the Highway Advertising Act of 1961, as amended and embodied in chapter 47.42 RCW.
- (3) "Centerline of the highway" means a line equidistant from the edges of the median separating the main-traveled ways of a divided highway, or the centerline of the main traveled way of a nondivided highway.
- (4) "Commercial and industrial areas" means any area zoned commercial or industrial by a county or municipal code, or if unzoned or zoned for general uses by a county or municipal code, that area occupied by three or more separate and distinct commercial and/or industrial activities within a space of five hundred feet and the area within five hundred feet of such

activities on both sides of the highway. The area shall be measured from the outer edges of the regularly used buildings, parking lots, storage or processing areas of the commercial or industrial activity and not from the property lines of the parcels upon which such activities are located. Measurements shall be along or parallel to the edge of the main-traveled way of the highway. The following shall not be considered commercial or industrial activities:

- (a) Agricultural, forestry, grazing, farming, and related activities, including, but not limited to, wayside fresh produce stands:
 - (b) Transient or temporary activities;
 - (c) Railroad tracks and minor sidings;
 - (d) Signs;
- (e) Activities more than six hundred and sixty feet from the nearest edge of the right of way;
- (f) Activities conducted in a building principally used as a residence. Should any commercial or industrial activity, which has been used in defining or delineating an unzoned area, cease to operate for a period of six continuous months, any signs located within the former unzoned area shall become nonconforming and shall not be maintained by any person after May 10, 1974.
- (5) "Commission" means the Washington state transportation commission.
- (6) "Discontinued." A sign shall be considered discontinued if, after receiving notice of absence of advertising content for three months, the permit holder fails to put advertising content on the sign within three months of the notice.
- (7) "Entrance roadway" means any public road or turning roadway including acceleration lanes, by which traffic may enter the main-traveled way of a controlled access highway from the general road system within the state, including rest areas, view points, and sites used by the general public, irrespective of whether traffic may also leave the main-traveled way by such road or turning roadway.
- (8) "Erect" means to construct, build, raise, assemble, place, affix, attach, create, paint, draw, or in any other way bring into being or establish.
- (9) "Exit roadway" means any public road or turning roadway including deceleration lanes, by which traffic may leave the main-traveled way of a controlled access highway to reach the general road system within the state, including rest areas, view points, and sites used by the general public, irrespective of whether traffic may also enter the main-traveled way by such road or turning roadway.
- (10) "Interstate system" means any state highway which is or does become part of the national system of interstate and defense highways as described in section 103(e) of Title 23, United States Code.
- (11) "Legible" means capable of being read without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity.

- (12) "Maintain" means to allow to exist. A sign loses its right to remain as a nonconforming sign if its size is increased more than fifteen percent over its size on the effective date of the Scenic Vistas Act on May 10, 1971, or the effective date of control of a given route, whichever is applicable. The sign may continue as long as it is not destroyed, abandoned, or discontinued. Such signs may be reerected in kind if destroyed due to vandalism, and other criminal or tortious acts.
- (13) "Main-traveled way" means the traveled way of a highway on which through traffic is carried. In the case of a divided highway, the traveled way of each of the separated roadways for traffic in opposite directions is a main-traveled way. It does not include such facilities as frontage roads, turning roadways, entrance roadways, exit roadways, or parking areas.
- (14) "Person" means this state or any public or private corporation, firm, partnership, association, as well as any individual, or individuals.
- (15) "Primary system" means any state highway which is part of the federal-aid primary system as described in section 103(b) of Title 23, United States Code, in existence on June 1, 1991, as enacted in the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, and any highway which is not on such system but which is on the National Highway System.
 - (16) "Scenic system" means:
- (a) Any state highway within any public park, federal forest area, public beach, public recreation area, or national monument;
- (b) Any state highway or portion thereof outside the boundaries of any incorporated city or town designated in RCW 47.42.140 by the legislature as a part of the scenic system; or
- (c) Any national scenic byway, state scenic byway, or state highway or portion thereof, outside the boundaries of any incorporated city or town, designated by the legislature in chapter 47.39 RCW as a part of the scenic and recreational highway system except for the sections of highways specifically excluded in RCW 47.42.025 or located within areas zoned by the governing county for predominantly commercial and industrial uses, and having development visible to the highway as determined by the department.
- (17) "Sign" means any outdoor sign, display, device, figure, painting, drawing, message, placard, poster, billboard, or other thing which is designed, intended or used to advertise or inform, any part of the advertising or informative contents of which is visible from any place on the main-traveled way of the interstate system or other state highway.
- (18) "Trade name" shall include brand name, trademark, distinctive symbol, or other similar device or thing used to identify particular products or services.
- (19) "Traveled way" means the portion of a roadway for the movement of vehicles, exclusive of shoulders.
- (20) "Turning roadway" means a connecting roadway for traffic turning between two intersection legs of an interchange.
- (21) "Visible" means capable of being seen (whether or not legible) without visual aid by a person of normal visual acuity.
- (22) "Electronic sign" means an outdoor advertising sign, display, or device whose message may be changed by electrical

- or electronic process, and includes the device known as the electronically changeable message center for advertising on-premise activities (WAC 468-66-070).
- (23) "Public service information" means a message on an electronic sign which provides the time, date, temperature, weather, or information about nonprofit activities sponsored by civic or charitable organizations.
- (24) "Temporary agricultural directional sign" means a sign on private property adjacent to state highway right of way to provide directional information to places of business offering for sale seasonal agricultural products.
- (25) "National scenic byway" means any state highway designated as part of the national scenic byway system authorized by the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.
- (26) "State scenic byway" means any scenic and recreational highway established by chapter 47.39 RCW.
- (27) "Visible development" means those areas determined by the department to have development, both in type and location, that meet the requirements for unzoned commercial and industrial areas prescribed by RCW 47.42.020(9) and such development is not visually obstructed by vegetation or other natural features. It is prohibited to remove vegetation or other natural features located within the state highway right of ways that may act as visual obstructions.
- (28) "Tri-vision sign" means a sign having a series of three sided rotating slats arranged side by side, either horizontally or vertically, which are rotated by an electric-mechanical process, capable of displaying a total of three separate and distinct messages, one message at a time.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 96-13-007, § 468-66-010, filed 6/6/96, effective 7/7/96. Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW and RCW 47.01.101(5). 94-12-049 (Order 144), § 468-66-010, filed 5/27/94, effective 6/27/94. Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 92-09-043 (Order 130), § 468-66-010, filed 4/10/92, effective 5/11/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060. 88-22-002 (Order 116), § 468-66-010, filed 10/20/88; 86-01-063 (Order 99), § 468-66-010, filed 12/17/85. Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 85-17-012 (Order 96), § 468-66-010, filed 8/12/85. Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060. 85-03-031 (Order 94), § 468-66-010, filed 1/10/85; 80-06-057 (Order 56), § 468-66-010, filed 5/19/80. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution 13), § 468-66-010, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-010.]

WAC 468-66-020 Restrictions on signs. Except as permitted by the act and these regulations, no person shall erect or maintain a sign which is visible from the main-traveled way of the interstate system, the primary system, or the scenic system. In case a highway or a section of highway is both a part of the primary system and the scenic system, only those signs permitted along the scenic system shall be erected or maintained.

[Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-020, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-015.]

WAC 468-66-030 General provisions. Notwithstanding any other provision of the act or these regulations, no signs visible from the main-traveled way of the interstate system, primary system, or scenic system which have any of the following characteristics shall be erected or maintained:

- (1) Signs advertising activities that are illegal under state or federal laws or regulations in effect at the location of such signs or at the location of such activities.
- (2) Illegal, destroyed, abandoned, discontinued or obsolete signs.
 - (3) Signs that are not clean and in good repair.
- (4) Signs that are not securely affixed to a substantial structure.
- (5) Signs which attempt or appear to attempt to direct the movement of traffic or which interfere with, imitate or resemble any official traffic sign, signal or device.
- (6) Signs which prevent the driver of a vehicle from having a clear and unobstructed view of official signs and approaching or merging traffic.
- (7) Signs which contain, include, or are illuminated by any flashing, intermittent, or moving light or lights (except those signs giving public service information).
- (8) Signs which use any lighting in any way unless it is so effectively shielded as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at any portion of the traveled ways of the highway or is of such low intensity or brilliance as not to cause glare or to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle, or to otherwise interfere with any driver's operation of a motor vehicle.
- (9) Signs which move or have any animated or moving parts (except revolving signs giving public service information).
- (10) Signs which are erected or maintained upon trees, power poles, or painted or drawn upon rocks or other natural features.
- (11) Signs which exceed twenty feet in length, width or height, or one hundred fifty square feet in area, including border and trim but excluding supports, except:
- (a) Larger signs as permitted within commercial and industrial areas adjacent to the primary system pursuant to RCW 47.42.062; and
- (b) Type 3 signs not more than fifty feet from the advertised activity; and
- (c) Single on-premise signs advertising shopping centers, malls, and business combinations as described in WAC 468-66-070(3); and
- (d) Type 8 signs shall not exceed thirty-two square feet in area, unless they qualify as Type 3 (on-premise) signs.
- (12) Electronic signs may be used only to advertise activities conducted or goods and services available on the property on which the signs are located or to present public service information.
- (a) Advertising messages may contain words, phrases, sentences, symbols, trade-marks, and logos. A single message

- or a segment of a message must have a display time of at least two seconds including the time to move onto the sign board, with all segments of the total message to be displayed within ten seconds. A message consisting of only one segment may remain on the sign board as long as desired.
- (b) Electronic signs requiring more than four seconds to change from one single message display to another shall be turned off during the change interval.
- (c) Displays traveling horizontally across the sign board must move between sixteen and thirty-two light columns per second. Displays can scroll onto the sign board but must hold for two seconds including scrolling.
- (d) Sign displays shall not include any art animations or graphics that portray motion, except for movement of graphics onto or off of the sign board as previously described.
- (e) No electronic sign lamp may be illuminated to a degree of brightness that is greater than necessary for adequate visibility. Signs found to be too bright shall be adjusted in accordance with the instructions of the department.
- (f) As on-premise signs, electronic signs are subject to the provisions of RCW 47.42.045 and 47.42.062.
- (13) Tri-vision signs may be used as Type 3, Type 4, or Type 5 signs, with the following provisions:
- (a) Visible to Interstate highways, tri-vision signs may only be used as Type 3 signs.
- (b) Rotation of one sign face to another sign face is no more frequent than every eight seconds and the actual rotation process shall be accomplished in four seconds or less.
- (c) Tri-vision signs shall contain a default mechanism that will stop the sign in one position should a malfunction occur.
- (d) Maximum size limitations shall independently apply to each sign face, including framework and border.
- (e) Tri-vision signs are subject to all other applicable provisions of chapter 47.42 RCW and chapter 468-66 WAC.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 85-17-012 (Order 96), § 468-66-030, filed 8/12/85. Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060. 85-03-031 (Order 94), § 468-66-030, filed 1/10/85; 80-04-095 (Order 52), § 468-66-030, filed 4/1/80. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution 13), § 468-66-030, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-020.]

WAC 468-66-050 Classification of signs. Signs shall be classified as follows:

- (1) Type 1--Directional or other official signs or notices.
- (a) Signs and notices erected and maintained by public offices or public agencies within their territorial or zoning jurisdiction and pursuant to and in accordance with direction or authorization contained in federal, state, or local law for the purposes of carrying out an official duty or responsibility. Historical markers authorized by state law and erected by state or local government agencies or nonprofit historical societies may be considered official signs.
- (b) Service club and religious notices, whose message shall contain only the name of a nonprofit service club or religious organization, its address and the time of its meeting or service.

- (2) Type 2--For sale or lease sign. A sign not prohibited by state law which is consistent with the applicable provisions of these regulations and which only advertises the sale or lease of the parcel of real property upon which the sign is located. The name of the owner of the property offered for sale or lease, or the owner's agent and phone number shall not be displayed more conspicuously than the words "for sale" or "for lease." No other message may be displayed on the sign. Not more than one such sign advertising the sale or lease of a parcel of property shall be visible to traffic proceeding in any one direction on an interstate system, primary system or scenic system highway.
 - (3) Type 3--On-premise sign.
- (a) A sign advertising an activity conducted on the property on which the sign is located. The sign, except as provided under (b) of this subsection, shall be limited to identifying the establishment or the principal or accessory products or services offered on the property. A sign consisting principally of a brand name, trade name, product, or service incidental to the principal products or services offered on the property, or bringing rental income to the property owner, is not considered an on-premise sign. Not more than one such sign, visible to traffic proceeding in any one direction on an interstate system, primary system, or scenic system highway may be permitted more than fifty feet from the advertised activity.
- (b) Temporary political campaign signs are a Type 3 onpremise sign, on which the property owner expresses endorsement of a political candidate or ballot issue, with the following restrictions:
- (i) Temporary political campaign signs are limited to a maximum size of thirty-two square feet in area.
- (ii) Temporary political campaign signs must be removed within ten days after the election.
- (iii) Except as provided in (b)(i) and (ii) of this subsection, temporary political campaign signs are subject to all other applicable provisions of chapter 47.42 RCW and chapter 468-66 WAC that pertain to Type 3 on-premise signs.
- (c) Signs reading "future site of" or similar wording will be allowed as an on-premise sign without any activity being apparent on the site for one year from date of installation provided the following conditions have been met:
- (i) The department of transportation has received a letter of notification of intent from the owner of the proposed advertised activity.
- (ii) The sign shall not inform of activities conducted elsewhere.
- (iii) The maximum size of a future site sign shall not be greater than one hundred fifty square feet. The sign must be removed at the end of the one year time period if the advertised activity has not become operational.
- (4) Type 4--Signs within twelve air miles of advertised activities. Signs not prohibited by state law which are consistent with the applicable provisions of these regulations and which advertise activities conducted within twelve air miles of such signs.
- (5) Type 5--Signs in the specific interest of the traveling public. Signs authorized to be erected or maintained by state law which are consistent with these regulations and which are

- designed to give information in the specific interest of the traveling public.
- (6) Type 6--Signs lawfully in existence on October 22, 1965, determined by the department of transportation, subject to the approval of the United States Secretary of Transportation, to be landmark signs, including signs on farm structures or natural surfaces, of historic or artistic significance the preservation of which would be consistent with the purposes of chapter 47.42 RCW.
- (7) Type 7--Public service signs located on school bus stop shelters, which:
 - (a) Identify the donor, sponsor or contributor of said shelters;
- (b) Contain safety slogans or messages which do not pertain to the donor and occupy not less than sixty percent of the area of the signs. In addition to this area limitation the donor identification portion of the sign may not appear more prominently than the safety slogan message;
 - (c) Contain no other message;
- (d) Are located on school bus shelters which are authorized or approved by city, county, or state law, regulation or ordinance, off the state highway right of way. School bus shelters shall not exceed 10 feet in length, 10 feet in width or 8 feet in height and shall be constructed with the upper 4 feet of the sides perpendicular to the roadway being occupied by the sign. The remainder is to be constructed of a see through nature. No school bus shelter shall be located along fully controlled access highways as specifically referenced in WAC 468-58-030;
- (e) Do not exceed 32 square feet in area. Not more than one sign on each shelter may face in any one direction. The sign shall not protrude above the roof line or beyond the sides of the shelter;
- (f) Signs erected pursuant to a permit issued by the department of transportation as provided in RCW 47.42.120 and 47.42.130 and the regulations issued thereunder. A permit shall be required for each individual sign face.
- (8) Type 8--Temporary agricultural directional signs, with the following restrictions:
- (a) Signs shall be posted only during the period of time the seasonal agricultural product is being sold;
- (b) Signs shall not be placed adjacent to the interstate highway system unless the sign qualifies as an on-premise (Type 3) sign;
- (c) Signs shall not be placed within an incorporated city or town, but may be placed in unzoned areas and areas zoned for agricultural, commercial, and industrial activities;
- (d) Premises on which the seasonal agricultural products are sold must be within fifteen miles of the state highway, and necessary supplemental signing on local roads must be provided before the installation of the signs on the state highway;
- (e) Signs must be located so as not to restrict sight distances on approaches to intersections, or restrict the visibility of other authorized signs;
- (f) The minimum spacing between sign structures shall be three hundred feet. For the purposes of this subsection, a backto-back sign and a V-type sign shall be considered one sign structure (spacing is independent of off-premise (Type 4 and Type 5) signs).

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW and RCW 47.01.101(5). 94-12-049 (Order 144), § 468-66-050, filed 5/27/94, effective 6/27/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060. 88-22-002 (Order 116), § 468-66-050, filed 10/20/88. Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 85-17-012 (Order 96), § 468-66-050, filed 8/12/85. Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060. 80-05-055 (Order 55), § 468-66-050, filed 4/18/80. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-050, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-040.]

WAC 468-66-055 National scenic byway demonstration project. Pursuant to the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, for the purpose of outdoor advertising control effective July 25, 1993, a National Scenic

Byway Demonstration project is established on State Route 101, from the Astoria/Megler Bridge to Fowler Street in Raymond and from the junction with State Route 109 near Queets to the junction with State Route 5 near Olympia, with the following restrictions:

- (1) No Type 4 or Type 5 signs may be permitted within the limits of this project, except that existing permitted Type 4 or type 5 signs may be maintained.
- (2) Signs of Types 1, 2, 3, 7, and 8 may be erected to the extent and manner provided by WAC 468-66-050.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW and RCW 47.01.101(5). 94-12-049 (Order 144), § 468-66-055, filed 5/27/94, effective 6/27/94.]

WAC 468-66-060 Signs along scenic, primary, and interstate systems. Signs of Types 4 and 5 shall not be erected or maintained within view of the main-traveled way of the scenic or primary system, except that signs visible from the maintraveled way of the primary system within commercial and industrial areas shall be permitted as provided in WAC 468-66-110. Only signs of Types 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 shall be erected or maintained within view of the main-traveled way of the interstate system to the extent and in the manner permitted by WAC 468-66-080, 468-66-090, and 468-66-100: Provided, That after May 10, 1974, no Type 4 or Type 5 signs shall be maintained within view of the main-traveled way of the interstate system outside of commercial and industrial areas. Signs of Types 7 and 8 may be erected or maintained within view of the primary and scenic highway systems to the extent and manner permitted by WAC 468-66-050.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW and RCW 47.01.101(5). 94-12-049 (Order 144), § 468-66-060, filed 5/27/94, effective 6/27/94. Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 85-17-012 (Order 96), § 468-66-060, filed 8/12/85. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-060, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-050.]

WAC 468-66-070 On-premise signs (Type 3).

- (1) Not more than one Type 3 sign visible to traffic proceeding in any one direction on an interstate system, primary system outside an incorporated city or town or commercial or industrial area, or scenic system highway may be permitted more than fifty feet from the advertised activity. The entire sign installation shall be located within the fifty foot distance.
- (2) For the purpose of measuring from the "advertised activity" the distance shall be measured from the sign to the nearest portion of that building, storage, or other structure or processing area, which is the most regularly used and essential to the conduct of the activity.
- (3) For signs advertising shopping centers, malls and business combinations, the distance from the "advertised activity" may be measured from the nearest portion of a combined parking area for purposes of allowing a single onpremise sign.
- (a) In the event that a shopping center, mall or business combination does erect a single on-premise sign as permitted herein, such sign may identify each of the individual businesses conducted upon the premises, and may include a single display area such as a manually changeable copy panel, reader board or electronically changeable message center for advertising on-premise activities.
- (b) Individual business signs in such a center, mall or combination area are not permissible more than fifty feet from the individual activity.
- (4) A Type 3 sign permitted more than fifty feet from the advertised activity pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall not be erected or maintained a greater distance from the advertised activity than one of the following options selected by the owner of the business being advertised:
- (a) One hundred fifty feet measured along the edge of the protected highway from the edge of the main entrance to the activity advertised (when applicable);
- (b) One hundred fifty feet from any outside wall of the main building of the advertised activity; or
- (c) Fifty feet from any outside edge of a regularly used parking lot maintained by and contiguous to the advertised activity.
- (5) One Type 3 sign in each direction, not exceeding fifty square feet in area bearing only the name and a directional message, indicating the location of a business, farm, ranch or orchard may be allowed on such premises that were in existence on June 25, 1976, provided that the following conditions exist:
- (a) No other Type 3 signs legible from the main traveled lanes of the highway are maintained.
- (b) The sign is located on property abutting the highway where ownership or unrestricted lease is contiguous to and includes the advertised activity and not on a strip or parcel of land deemed by the department of transportation to be acquired for the sole purpose of outdoor advertising.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060. 80-05-055 (Order 55), § 468-66-070, filed 4/18/80. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-070, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-055.]

- WAC 468-66-080 Number of signs and spacing requirements along interstate system. No Type 4 or Type 5 signs which are visible from the main-traveled way of the interstate system shall be erected or maintained in any manner inconsistent with the following:
- (1) In advance of an intersection of the main-traveled way of the interstate highway and an exit roadway, such signs visible to interstate system traffic approaching such intersection may not be permitted to exceed the following number:

Distance from	Number
intersection	of signs
0-2 miles	0
2-5 miles	6
More than 5 miles	
	sign per mile

The specified distances shall be measured to the nearest point of the intersection of the traveled way of the exit roadway and the main-traveled way of the interstate highway.

- (2) Subject to the other provisions of this section, not more than two such signs may be permitted within any mile distance measured from any point, and no such signs may be permitted to be less than one thousand feet apart.
- (3) Such signs may not be permitted adjacent to any interstate highway right of way upon any part of the width of which is constructed an entrance or exit roadway.
- (4) Such signs visible to interstate highway traffic which is approaching or has passed an entrance roadway may not be permitted for one thousand feet beyond the furthest point of the intersection between the traveled way of such entrance roadway and the main-traveled way of the interstate highway.
- (5) Not more than one such sign advertising activities being conducted as a single enterprise or giving information about a single place may be permitted to be erected or maintained in such manner as to be visible to traffic moving in any one direction on any one interstate highway.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 96-03-031 (Order 161), § 468-66-080, filed 1/9/96, effective 2/9/96. Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW and RCW 47.01.101(5). 94-12-049 (Order 144), § 468-66-080, filed 5/27/94, effective 6/27/94. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-080, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-070.]

WAC 468-66-090 Preference of applicants for Type 4, Type 5, and Type 8 sites. Applications for available Type 4, Type 5, and Type 8 sign sites, where the number of applications shall exceed the available sites, shall be awarded upon the following preferential basis:

- (1) Agencies of the state of Washington in order of their applications.
- (2) Counties or incorporated cities in the order of their applications.
 - (3) Federal agencies in the order of their applications.

(4) All other applicants in the order of their applications, giving preference, however, to the holder of an existing permit for renewal thereof. In the event the department has initiated proceedings for removal of an existing sign situated on a legal site, the department will not accept new applications until such proceedings are concluded. All applications received during the department's normal office hours during the same day shall be construed as having been received simultaneously. In the case of a tie between applicants, and upon notification thereof by the department, the department shall determine by lot which shall receive the permit.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 92-09-043 (Order 130), § 468-66-090, filed 4/10/92, effective 5/11/92; 85-17-012 (Order 96), § 468-66-090, filed 8/12/85. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-090, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-080.]

WAC 468-66-100 Advertising copy.

- (1) A Type 4 sign that displays any trade name which refers to or identifies any service rendered or product sold, used or otherwise handled more than twelve air miles from such sign may not be permitted unless the name of the advertised activity which is within twelve air miles of such sign is displayed as conspicuously as such trade name.
- (2) In Type 5 signs, only information about public places operated by federal, state or local governments, natural phenomena, historic sites, areas of natural scenic beauty or naturally suited for outdoor recreation, and places for camping, lodging, eating and vehicle service and repair is deemed to be in the specific interest of the traveled public. For the purposes of the act and these regulations, a trade name is deemed to be information in the specific interest of the traveling public only if it identifies or characterizes such a place or identifies vehicle service, equipment, parts, accessories, fuels, oils or lubricants being offered for sale at such a place. Signs displaying any other trade name may not be permitted under Type 5.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, Type 4 signs which also qualify as Type 5 signs may display trade names in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

(4) A Type 8 sign shall contain the business name, product(s)

for sale, and travel direction and distance to the nearest mile from the intersection with the state highway to the business activity. The materials and workmanship in fabricating and installing the signs should have a professional appearance. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 87-01-055 (Order 107), § 468-66-100, filed 12/16/86; 85-17-012 (Order 96), § 468-66-100, filed 8/12/85. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-100, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-090.]

WAC 468-66-110 Signs within commercial and industrial areas of primary system. Signs visible from the main-traveled way of the primary system within commercial and industrial

areas whose size and spacing are consistent with the customary use of property for the effective display of outdoor advertising as set forth in this section may be erected and maintained: Provided, That nothing in this section shall restrict Type 3 signs located along any portion of the primary system within an incorporated city or town or within any commercial or industrial area.

- (1) Size of signs:
- (a) The maximum area for any one sign shall be six hundred seventy-two square feet with a maximum height of twenty-five feet and maximum length of fifty feet inclusive of any border and trim but excluding the base or apron, supports and other structural members: Provided, That cut-outs and extensions may add up to twenty percent of additional sign area.
- (b) For the purposes of this subsection, double-faced, back-to-back or V-type signs shall be considered as two signs.
- (c) Signs which exceed three hundred twenty-five square feet in area may not be double-faced (abutting and facing the same direction).
 - (2) Spacing of signs:
- (a) Signs may not be located in such a manner as to obscure, or otherwise physically interfere with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal, or device, obstruct or physically interfere with the driver's view of approaching, merging, or intersecting traffic.
- (b) On limited access highways established pursuant to chapter 47.52 RCW no two sign structures shall be spaced less than one thousand feet apart, and no sign may be located within three thousand feet of the center of an interchange, a safety rest area or information center, or within one thousand feet of an intersection at grade. Double-faced signs shall be prohibited. Not more than a total of five sign structures shall be permitted on both sides of the highway per mile.
- (c) On noncontrolled access highways inside the boundaries of incorporated cities and towns not more than a total of four sign structures on both sides of the highway within a space of six hundred sixty feet shall be permitted with a minimum of one hundred feet between sign structures. In no event, however shall more than four sign structures be permitted between platted intersecting streets or highways. On noncontrolled access highways outside the boundaries of incorporated cities and towns minimum spacing between sign structures on each side of the highway shall be five hundred feet.
- (d) For the purposes of this subsection, a back-to-back sign and a V-type sign shall be considered one sign structure.
- (e) Official signs, signs advertising activities conducted on the property on which they are located (Type 2 and Type 3 signs), public service signs on school bus stop shelters (Type 7 signs), and temporary agricultural directional signs (Type 8 signs) shall not be considered in determining compliance with the above spacing requirements. The minimum space between structures shall be measured along the nearest edge of the pavement between points directly opposite the signs along each side of the highway and shall apply to signs located on the same side of the highway.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 85-17-012 (Order 96), § 468-66-110, filed 8/12/85. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-110, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-095.]

WAC 468-66-120 Signs erected prior to June 1, 1971 in commercial and industrial areas along the primary system. Signs lawfully erected and maintained which are visible from the main-traveled way of the primary system within commercial and industrial areas on June 1, 1971 shall be permitted to remain and be maintained. Such signs, however, shall be included in the determination of spacing requirements for additional signs as permitted by WAC 468-66-110.

[Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-120, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-097.]

WAC 468-66-130 Signs to be removed. No sign visible from the main-traveled way of the interstate system, the primary system, or the scenic system which was there lawfully maintained immediately prior to May 10, 1971 but which does not comply with the provisions of the act and these regulations, shall be maintained by any person:

- (1) After May 10, 1974; or
- (2) With respect to any highway hereafter designated by the legislature as a part of the scenic system, after three years from the effective date of the designation. Signs located in areas zoned by the governing county for predominantly commercial or industrial uses, that do not have development visible to the highway, as determined by the department, and that were lawfully installed after May 10, 1971, visible to any highway now or hereafter designated by the legislature as part of the scenic system, shall be allowed to be maintained.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW and RCW 47.01.101(5). 94-12-049 (Order 144), § 468-66-130, filed 5/27/94, effective 6/27/94. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-130, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-098.]

WAC 468-66-140 Permits.

- (1) No signs except Type 1, Type 2, or Type 3 signs shall be erected or maintained adjacent to interstate system, primary system, or scenic system highways without a permit issued by the department of transportation. Permits for erection and maintenance of signs adjacent to the interstate system, primary system, or scenic system will be issued by the department of transportation in accordance with this chapter.
- (2) Applications for permits (except for Type 8 signs) will be accepted only at the Department of Transportation Service Center, Olympia, Washington. Applications transmitted by mail shall be effective from date of receipt rather than of mailing.
 - (3) Application forms shall contain:
 - (a) The name and address of the owner of the sign;

- (b) A statement and the signature of the owner or occupant of the land on which the sign is to be erected or maintained indicating that he has consented thereto;
- (c) A statement of the precise location where the sign is to be erected or maintained;
- (d) A statement of the proposed size and shape of the sign. An application for a Type 5 sign to be erected along the interstate system shall contain a description of the copy to be placed on the sign;
- (e) Such other information as may be required by the department;
- (f) For Type 8 signs, application forms accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars for each sign face must be submitted to the appropriate department of transportation region office and submittals must include, in addition to (a) through (e) of this subsection, an exact description of the location of the temporary agricultural business activity, a description of the proposed sign copy, identification of the products sold, expected weeks/months of sales, and assigned tax number. After approval of the application by the transportation district office, the sign may be erected at the beginning of the sale season and must be removed at the end of the sale season. Approved applications shall be valid for five consecutive years from the date of application approval. A new application must be submitted and approved prior to erection of a sign at a location where the five-year validation has expired. For any Type 8 sign not in compliance with this chapter, the department of transportation shall request the attorney general on its behalf to institute legal proceedings to cause such sign to be removed as an illegal sign without payment of compensation. Subsections 4 through 8 of this section do not apply to Type 8 signs.
- (4) Applications shall be accompanied by a fee of three hundred dollars for each sign structure.
- (5) Permits shall be for the remainder of the calendar year in which they are issued, and accompanying fees shall not be prorated for fractions of the year. Permits are renewed annually through the following certification process:
- (a) Prior to January 1 of each year the department of transportation shall request, through the use of a standard form, permit renewal certification from the owner of every sign for which a permit has been issued under RCW 47.42.120 and this section. In order to renew the permit, the sign owner shall certify by signature that all sign permits are active and the signs are currently maintained and in good condition. The completed permit renewal form shall be returned to the department not later than the following February 1. The permit renewal form shall further state that if the required certification has not been received by February 1, legal proceedings will be initiated to cause removal of such sign as an illegally maintained sign.
- (b) Following the request for certification specified in (a) of this subsection, if the due certification is not received for any permitted sign by the date specified, the department of transportation shall request the attorney general on its behalf to initiate legal proceedings to cause such sign to be removed as an illegal sign without the payment of compensation therefor.
- (6) Changes in size, shape, or position of a permitted sign shall be reported to the department of transportation at Olympia at

- least ten days before a change is to be made. In the case of Type 5 signs permitted along the interstate system, changes in copy shall be reported to the department at Olympia at least ten days before a change is to be made.
- (7) Assignment of permits in good standing shall be effective only upon receipt of assignment by the department of transportation.
- (8) Every permit issued by the department shall be assigned a separate identification number, and it shall be the duty of each permittee to fasten to each sign a weatherproof label, not larger than six square inches, which shall be furnished by the department and on which shall be plainly visible the said permit number. The permittee shall also place his name in a conspicuous position on the front or back of each sign.
- (9) A permit issued under this chapter does not relieve the permittee from the duty to comply with all local rules, regulations, and ordinances pertaining to signs and sign structures.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 92-09-043 (Order 130), § 468-66-140, filed 4/10/92, effective 5/11/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060. 88-22-002 (Order 116), § 468-66-140, filed 10/20/88. Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.42 RCW. 87-01-055 (Order 107), § 468-66-140, filed 12/16/86; 85-17-012 (Order 96), § 468-66-140, filed 8/12/85. Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060. 80-04-095 (Order 52), § 468-66-140, filed 4/1/80. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13),§ 468-66-140, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-100.]

- WAC 468-66-150 Penalties. (1) After hearing, as required by chapter 34.04 RCW (Administrative Procedure Act) and the rules and regulations of the department of transportation adopted pursuant thereto, any permit may be revoked without refund by the department for any of the following reasons:
- (a) For the making of any false or misleading statements in the application for any permit, whether or not the same is material to or relied upon by the department in the issuance of such permit when such false or misleading statement or information shall remain uncorrected after the expiration of thirty days following written notification thereof.
- (b) For allowing or suffering any sign to remain in a condition of disrepair or unreasonable state of repair after the expiration of thirty days following written notification thereof.
- (c) For maintaining any sign, for which a permit has been issued, in violation of any provision of the act or these regulations after the expiration of thirty days following written notification thereof.
- (d) For any convictions of a violation of the act or any of these regulations, any permit held by the convicted person may be revoked whether or not such violation is related to the sign for which the permit is revoked.
- (e) For maintaining a discontinued sign as defined in WAC 468-66-010(6)
- (2) Notice whenever required herein shall be given to the person entitled thereto by registered mail at the last known address of such person which shall be such address as may be on

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file with the department, if any, otherwise the last address of such person shown by the tax records of the county in which the real property upon which the sign in question is maintained.

(3) Computation of time when dependent upon giving of notice shall relate to the day of mailing such notice rather than the day of receipt.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 47.42.060. 86-01-063 (Order 99), § 468-66-150, filed 12/17/85. Statutory Authority: 1977 ex.s. c 151. 79-01-033 (DOT Order 10 and Comm. Order 1, Resolution No. 13), § 468-66-150, filed 12/20/78. Formerly WAC 252-40-110.]

(2000)



